

MEETING MINUTES

Joint Broward Water Resources Task Force and Technical Team

Friday, April 3, 2009, 11:00 AM

Broward County Government Center West
1 N. University Drive, 2nd Floor Hearing Room
Plantation, Florida 33324

Summary:

The meeting began at 11:05 AM. Chair Estenoz indicated that some Task Force members were missing from the meeting due to work conflicts and budget meetings. Roll call was taken (see attendance list below), and a quorum was not reached. The Chair indicated that in the absence of a quorum, approval of the March 6 meeting minutes would be deferred until later in the meeting when a quorum might be reached.

The Chair stated the purpose of the meeting, which was to begin discussion about specific alternative water supply projects that might be accomplished through partnerships, with a focus today upon the C-51 Reservoir project. The Chair explained that the Palm Beach Task Force is primarily looking at the C-51 project to solely meet new water demands, and they are a bit ahead of the Broward Task Force with respect to this project. A Scope of Work (SOW) has been developed for the C-51 project and will be reviewed and discussed at the Palm Beach Task Force at their April 16 meeting. The Broward Task Force Technical Team will review the SOW and provide comments to the Broward Task Force at the May 1 meeting, in addition to presentation of other proposed alternative water supply projects.

At this point, it was announced that quorum had been reached. The Chair then called for approval of the minutes from the March 6 meeting. They were unanimously approved. The Chair then introduced Albert Perez, Technical Team Chair, for the Technical Team report. Mr. Perez reported that the Technical Team had been holding interim meetings and working diligently to identify alternative water supply projects. The Chair reminded the Technical Team that three area utilities are in the "borrowing water" period, so they are pressed to develop alternatives more quickly than some of the other utilities. She mentioned that the Task Force should keep in mind the revised demand numbers, which might buy utilities and municipalities more time.

The Chair then introduced Albert Carbon with the City of Fort Lauderdale who provided a presentation on the C-51 Reservoir project. Mr. Carbon explained that the purpose of the project was to develop a framework for a regional water supply solution; to respond to the need for additional potable water supplies in southeast Florida; and to meet environmental restoration objectives. The project is being undertaken through joint participation by utilities in Broward and Palm Beach Counties, and the South Florida Water Management District, and funded by seven of the major participants. An interlocal agreement was signed between the utilities in January 2007 that included looking at raw water requirements in the two-county area, alternative water supply solutions, hydrologic modeling, and presentation of the project. Mr. Carbon then shared a graphic of the study area. The demand not met was estimated at 248 million gallons per day (MGD), which would require 186 MGD of new raw water. He

explained those calculations and indicated the C-51 Reservoir project could provide 120 MGD raw water, requiring another 66 MGD to come from other alternative water supplies. He also mentioned the environmental benefits of the project to the Lake Worth Lagoon and that the C-51 project would also have a smaller carbon footprint than other identified alternatives. He shared a basic schematic of what the major facilities would look like and a general facilities layout showing pump stations and conveyance crossings. Mr. Carbon then discussed the cascade effect and explained how the C-51 Reservoir would provide water to Palm Beach communities that currently receive water from Water Conservation Area 1 (WCA). In turn, WCA 1 water could then be delivered to Broward County communities. He then discussed the estimated capital costs totaling \$363 million. He discussed where we are now and how much new water needs to be found. He mentioned the ocean outfall legislation and the relative energy use and capital costs of several alternatives, noting that the C-51 Reservoir is the most economical by far. In conclusion, the C-51 project would make water available at significantly less cost, have less carbon footprint, result in savings of \$1.5 billion, and have additional environmental benefits. He then went on to briefly discuss the next steps including leadership roles, additional technical needs, administrative needs, legal framework, and the development of a next phase of study.

There was a question of how water from the project was to be distributed and whether it would be limited to the seven funding entities involved, to which Mr. Carbon answered no. There was an inquiry about whether the project had been evaluated with regard to new demand projections. Mr. Carbon indicated that this analysis is now underway. An inquiry was made about whether ocean outfalls are being considered as part of the project. Chair Estenoz explained that there is no link between the two projects – one is a stormwater project, the other a wastewater project. Discussion ensued about the comparison of costs for the C-51 project with those of other alternatives. There was a question on what needs to happen to make the C-51 project a reality, from a governance standpoint. A mention was made that there are a lot of models throughout the nation from which to choose. A question was posed as to where SFWMD stands on the project. Chair Estenoz mentioned that the project had not yet been brought before the SFWMD Governing Board. She noted that the estimated completed project costs do not include costs for operation and maintenance, and it is envisioned that SFWMD will operate it, so this is a major consideration for the SFWMD. She stated further that the SFWMD currently has a \$2 billion backlog of operation and maintenance projects. Post-Hurricane Katrina, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) began requiring levees be re-certified, which adds costs and responsibilities to the SFWMD's operation and maintenance functions. They are also tasked with expanding new storage. There was a question on how to proceed in an equitable manner to decide if this project is pursued further or should another plan be considered. The Chair indicated that she thinks we need to go to the next level of analysis and look at operation and maintenance costs.

The Chair then introduced Brian Shields (representing Palm Beach County), who gave an overview of the Palm Beach Water Resources Task Force. Mr. Shields discussed key decisions and questions with regard to the C-51 Reservoir project. Questions included the following:

Will SFWMD include the reservoir as an alternative water supply project in the Lower East Coast Water Supply Plan? Mr. Shields indicated that he believed it should, and this determination is crucial.

Should SFWMD allocate offset credit to utilities? Where and how would water be allocated? Would the water stored in the pits at the C-51 be allocated to the general public, to the environment or to agriculture? That will be a key decision to be made by the SFWMD Governing Board. The Chair then weighed in, speaking only for herself, and indicated a general conditional policy statement might be made with respect to how utilities might receive credits. There was an extended discussion on this issue.

Other questions raised included:

Would SFWMD allow water supply source shifting? Would cascading be allowed? Is it permissible?

Would SFWMD expend resources to identify and use credits?

Would the Lake Worth Drainage District be willing to accept C-51 water? This is a key question as the Lake Worth Drainage District has water quality concerns. If the S-9 decision is overturned (dealing with transfer of water), it could have big implications.

Would L-40 levee stakeholders be willing to consider other alternatives? This is a looming issue.

Who will fund, operate, and maintain the new system? Governance is a big issue. With all the water being sent to tide, storage is a big issue.

Mr. Shields then discussed the elements that would need to be included in a Phase II study. There was some discussion about the reservoir site and the Lake Worth lagoon.

The final presentation of the day was by John Mulliken with the SFWMD, who discussed the SFWMD's comments on a draft Phase II Scope of Work for the C-51 Reservoir project. Mr. Mulliken indicated that SFWMD concurred with several of the proposed tasks of the Phase II study. He discussed the need for involvement by other agencies in the process, including the Corps, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Lake Worth Drainage District. He then discussed SFWMD's role in the project, mentioning budget and staffing limitations, competing priorities, and that future phases might include consideration of other entities owning and operating the facilities. He noted that the SFWMD proposed \$100,000 for the Phase II study, which has passed the first budget review.

The meeting then turned to general discussion. Dr. Jurado, with the Broward County Natural Resources Planning and Management Division, stated that June 5 is the likely date for a joint meeting of the Broward Task Force and the Palm Beach Task Force. Dr. Jurado also suggested that the Broward Task Force hold an additional joint Task Force/Technical Team meeting at the end of May devoted to water conservation. May 29 was proposed for the additional meeting and agreed upon by the Task Force.

The Chair opened the floor for public comments. Barry Heimlich, speaking for himself, discussed expected sea level rise and changes in precipitation patterns as a result of climate change, and concluded that the more surface water storage that could be provided the better. He suggested that these technical issues get resolved soon.

Dr. Jurado reminded everyone about the upcoming meeting on April 9 to review the Integrated Water Resources Master Management Plan and invited Task Force members to attend.

Having no further comments, the meeting was adjourned at 12:50 PM.

ATTENDANCE

Task Force:

Lisa Aronson, Vice Mayor, City of Coconut Creek
Douglas Bell, Chair, Central Broward Water Control District Board of Commissioners
Richard Blattner, Commissioner, City of Hollywood
Joy Cooper, Mayor, City of Hallandale Beach
Shannon Estenoz, Governing Board Member, South Florida Water Management District
Lamar Fisher, Mayor at Large, City of Pompano Beach
Tom Good, Treasurer, South Broward Drainage District
Glen Hanks, Secretary, Coral Springs Improvement District Board of Supervisors
Jack McCluskey, Commissioner, City of Pembroke Pines
Donald Rosen, Deputy Mayor, City of Sunrise
Susan Starkey, Councilmember, Town of Davie
Allegra Webb-Murphy, Commissioner, City of Oakland Park

Technical Team:

William Brant, Public Works Director, City of Hallandale Beach
Steven Bassett, Eco Advisors, for the So. Fla. Chapter U.S. Green Building Council
Hank Breitenkam, Director of Utilities, City of Plantation
Linda Brien, Administrator, Water Facilities Program, FDEP Southeast District
Randy Brown, Utilities Director, City of Pompano Beach
Heather Cuniff, City Planner, City of Lauderhill
Hector Castor, Director of Utilities, City of Sunrise
Ray Gagnon, Director of Utilities, City of Tamarac
Alan Garcia, Director, Broward County Water & Wastewater Services
Dr. Jennifer Jurado, Director, Broward County Nat. Res. Planning & Mgmt. Division
Dylan Larson, Miller-Legg, for the Builders Association of South Florida
Julie Leonard, Asst. Utility Services Director-Operations, City of Fort Lauderdale
Joe McLaughlin, Professional Engineer, City of Pembroke Pines
John Mulliken, Director, SFWMD Water Supply Planning Division
Leo Schwartzberg, Director, South Broward Drainage District
Albert Perez, Director of Public Utilities, City of Hollywood
Raj Verma, Director of Utilities and Engineering, City of Coconut Creek
David Womacks, Public Works Director, City of Oakland Park

Other Attendees:

Rose Butman, Allstate Resource

Albert Carbon, Public Works Director, City of Fort Lauderdale
Patrick Davis, Hazen and Sawyer
Ed Dion, Nabors Giblin
Celia Earle, Malcolm Pirnie
Toni Edwards, Broward County NRPMD
Barry Heimlich, FAU-CUES
Gary Hines, School Board of Broward County
Todd Hiteshew, City of Fort Lauderdale
Peter Kwiatkowski, SFWMD
Maria Loucraft, City of Pompano Beach
Marcia Monserrat, Broward County
Bob Moresi, Black & Veatch
Carole Morris, Broward Service Center, SFWMD
Elizabeth Quinn, CDM
Robert Rudolph, Broward County NRPMD
Brian Shields, Palm Beach County Utilities
Reshma Thumadi, Malcolm Pirnie
Chris Van Vliet, City of Lauderdale Lakes
Michael Zygnerski, Broward County NRPMD